Ir Drew G-3 (1862-1872) 1873 AVI Kashmir AVI

Farther up is another such closing of the river from the side and widening above.

These semi-lakes had apparently been quite lately formed, as there were trees upright some feet in the water, which therefore had been brought to its present high level by damming since the growth of the trees. But, again, there was something to show that the water had been yet higher before now—sandy alluvial beds some 15 feet above the present surface. These things prove that at different times the same event occurred; that the lake and accompanying lake-deposits had been formed, that the water had drained away to a lower level by a channel being cut through the dam, and that a later increase of the dam had caused the action to be repeated, though not quite to the same degree as before.

As we approach Hamûrt the valley has a more stony look; the masses of rock that have fallen from the cliffs above, or have been carried down in snow-falls, are very conspicuous. Hamûrt itself, a little village in the valley, 8800 feet above the sea, interested me on account of the evidence it gave of certain recent physical events. Some twelve years before, about 1857, a rush of snow down the two ravines a little below the village, one on each side of the main valley, advanced the taluses so much that these completely dammed up the river; the waters of it rose to the level of the village as it was then situated, and came over some of the fields; the people left their houses for fear of inundation, but soon the waters cut for themselves a small channel, and the level of them was lowered some 30 feet, but still remained 60 feet higher than at first. From the dam downwards was formed a great and violent cascade; but above, at the time I am speaking of, there was formed as it were a lake, where the water was quite calm, and, from its depth, flowed very slowly. In the space of three years the greater part of this depth (which must have been 60 or 70 feet, plus the original depth of the stream) was filled up with sediment of sand and pebbles. The point of interest here is the great rapidity of formation of this lacustrine or semi-lacustrine deposit.

For a year or two the village remained undisturbed; then

Is Drew G-3 (1883-1972) 1916 AVI Kashmir AVI

misfortune came in another form. It was a very snowy year. From the side of the valley opposite to that on which the village stood, from the left bank, came down an avalanche, and this was able, from the bottom of the valley of the river being so filled up, to reach across to the village. The village would have been safe had the original form of the valley been retained, but with the hollow bridged, as it were, with the gravel deposit, the avalanche spread over and made a great plain of thick snow (beneath which the river found its way), and completely buried the houses. It was night time, and all the people were at rest; the headman managed to dig his way out and call aid from other villages. In about twenty hours all the inhabitants of Hamtrt were excavated alive, though some were insensible from the confinement of the air. The people love to relate how that more came out than had been buried, for during the night a child had been born beneath the snow.

Hamtrt was fated to undergo further alarms. Not long after the last event an earthquake brought down a great mass of rock from the cliff that overlooks the place. This landslip destroyed some of the fields and knocked in one or two of the houses, which, however, were empty at the time; so here, too, the Hamtrt people had less ill-fortune than was threatened. But now they concluded that it was time to leave a spot of such danger, and they begged the authorities to give them land elsewhere; but since the keeping up of settlements in these high parts is almost necessary for the aid of travellers between Pádar and Zánskár, they were persuaded to stay, with the relief of some reduction of their land-tax; so they built a new village higher up, but they could find no site that is quite free from the danger of avalanches.

A little before coming to Hamtrt we had passed two cascades, on the left bank, made by two streams, near together, tumbling over successive ridges of rock; the whole fall of each was some 1500 feet. In a ravine nearer Hamtrt, where the foot of a glacier that is embosomed high in the mountain comes to the edge of a steep cliff, tthe water from it comes over in a fall of several hundred feet.

considerable importance for cultivation in the valley. From June to November heavy rain falls on the Pir Panjál range, and in Jammu chiefly in the months of July, August, and September. The rainfall at Jammu and Púnch is comparable with that of the submontane Districts of the Punjab. It is more moderate in amount in the valley, which receives a total of 9·4 inches, as compared with 33·7 inches at Púnch and 26·8 inches at Dunsil. The precipitation is very light to the east of the first line of the snows bordering the valley on the east, and is about 2 inches in total amount at Gilgit, Skárdu, Kargil, and Leh. Thus the south-west monsoon is the predominant feature in Jammu and Kishtwár, while in Ladákh, Gilgit, and the higher ranges the cold-season precipitation is more important. The tables on p. 82 show the average temperature and rainfall at Srinagar and Leh for a series of years ending with 1903.

Earthquakes are not uncommon, and eleven accompanied by loss of life have been recorded since the fifteenth century. In 1885 shocks were felt from the end of May till the middle of August, and about 3,500 people were killed. Fissures opened in the earth, and landslips occurred. Floods are also frequently mentioned in the histories of the country, the greatest following the obstruction of the Jhelum by the fall of a mountain in A.D. 879. The great flood of 1841 in the Indus caused much loss of life and damage to property. In 1893 very serious floods took place in the Jhelum owing to continuous rain for 50 hours, and much damage was done to Srinagar. An inundation of a yet more serious character occurred in 1903. Earthquakes and floods.

The early history of Kashmír has been preserved in the celebrated *Rájatarangini*, by the poet Kalhana, who began to write in 1148. He gives a connected account of the history of the valley, which may be accepted as a trustworthy record from the middle of the ninth century onwards. Kalhana's work was continued by Jonarája, who brought the history through the troubled times of the last Hindu dynasties, and the first Muhammadan rulers, to the time of the great Zain-ul-ábidín, who ascended the throne in 1420. Another Sanskrit chronicler, Srivara, carries on the narrative to the accession of Fateh Shah in 1486; and the last of the chronicles, the *Rájávalipataka*, brings the record down to 1586, when the valley was conquered by Akbar. History. Sources.

The current legend in Kashmír relates that the valley was once covered by the waters of a mighty lake, on which the Legends.

986

The only railway at present is a short length of 16 miles, constructed at the cost of the State, which is included in a branch of the North-Western State Railway from Wazírábád through Sialkot. It cost 96 lakhs, and has usually earned a net profit of 1 to 2½ per cent., in addition to the rebate allowed from traffic exchanged with the North-Western Railway. A line has been surveyed along the Jhelum valley route, and it is proposed to work this by electricity derived from the river.

705 Post Office. 691

The State is included for postal purposes in the circle administered by the Postmaster-General of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province. Formerly Kashmír had its own postal service and used its own postage stamps, but as far back as 1876 there were British post offices in Srinagar and Leh. The State stamps were used only for local purposes, and letters and other postal articles passing between the State post offices and British India were charged with both Kashmír and Indian postage. In 1894 the State posts were entirely amalgamated with the Indian postal system. The following statistics show the advance in postal business since 1880-1 :—

	1880-1.	1890-1.	1900-1.	1904-5.
Number of post offices	2	2	81	78
Number of letter boxes	—	—	199	207
Number of miles of postal communication	—	—	1,488	1,878
Total number of postal articles delivered :—				
Letters	98,126	138,216	1,414,140	1,519,674
Postcards	3,496	26,838	1,209,182	1,833,430
Packets	830	16,146	96,356*	166,400
Newspapers	40,378	70,206	193,417†	246,674
Parcels	1,740	4,814	32,795	72,401
Value of stamps sold to the public Rs.	‡	‡	81,030	1,06,018
Value of money orders issued Rs.	‡	‡	3,10,991	16,37,787

* Including unregistered newspapers. † Registered as newspapers in the Post Office. ‡ The figures are included in those of the Punjab.

731

Famine.

The accounts of early famines are vague, but it is known that they occurred. While Sher Singh was governor (1831–3) severe distress was felt and many people fled, but the next governor, Mián Singh, did much to restore prosperity by importing grain. It is said that the population was reduced to a quarter in that famine. In 1877–9 a worse disaster was experienced and the loss of life was enormous. Famines in Kashmír are not caused by drought, as in India, because the

rice crop is generally protected by irrigation. The greatest distress is due to the fall of rain or snow while the rice and maize are ready for harvest. The famine of 1832 was caused by early snow, and was aggravated by the floods which followed. In 1877 rain fell almost continuously for three months, and the old system of collecting revenue in kind prevented cultivators from gathering their crops when opportunity served. Food-grain was not to be had; and when imports were made at the expense of the State, the corrupt officials were the chief persons to profit. It is improbable that such distress can be experienced again, owing to the construction of a cart-road, and the change in the method of collecting revenue.

Political relations.

The State is in direct relationship with the Government of India, who is represented by an officer of the Political department, styled the Resident. His head-quarters are at Srinagar. At Gilgit a Political Agent exercises some degree of supervision over the Wazír Wazárat, and is directly responsible to the Government of India for the administration of the outlying petty States. A British officer is stationed at Leh to assist in the supervision of Central Asian trade.

Administration.

On his accession to the *gaddi* in 1885, the present Mahárájá was entrusted with the administration of the State, aided by two ministers: but in 1887, at his own request, he was relieved from all part in the administration, which was then placed, subject to the control of the Resident, in the hands of a Council consisting of His Highness's brother and two selected officials from the British service. In 1891 the Mahárájá assumed the presidentship of the Council, while his brother, Rájá Sir Amar Singh, K.C.S.I., became vice-president. The Council was abolished in 1905, and its powers were conferred on the chief himself. Under the new arrangements the Mahárájá administers the State. There are three ministers, in charge of the revenue, judicial, and home departments; but business requiring the orders of the Mahárájá is laid before him by the chief minister, Rájá Sir Amar Singh. For some time past the departments of finance, revenue settlement, forests, and public works have been in charge of British officers, whose services have been temporarily placed at the disposal of the Darbár.

The four chief executive officers are: the governor or Hákim-i-Ala of Jammu, the governor of Kashmír (each aided by a general assistant), the Wazír Wazárat of Gilgit, and the Wazír Wazárat of Ladákh.

In Jammu there are five districts, each in charge of a Wazír Wazárat, an official whose average salary is Rs. 250 a month.

4a Durand G-3 (1888-89) 1900 AVI Kashmir AVI

clothed with forest, at one time through the terraced fields of rich rice cultivation, at another through thickets of lilac, barberry, and hazel, and at another through the forest itself, here composed of magnificent deodars. Ruins of Buddhist temples by the roadside—some of them of great interest, and in a fair state of preservation—bear witness here, as do other remains on every well-known natural line of communication throughout the Hindu-Kush and Northern India, to the widespread power of the creed once ruling from Kandahar and Kabul to Bengal, of which now, throughout the continent of India, scarcely a trace remains, except in time-worn stones.

The valley of Kashmir, which is about eighty miles long by twenty broad, contains and leads to some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. Shut in by a great circle of snowy mountains, traversed by a fine river running through richly cultivated lands, adorned by a chain of lovely lakes, watered by a thousand streams, covered with numerous villages embowered in every species of fruit-tree, with lake and stream bordered by plane-trees, the magnificent "chenar," dear to the Mogul Emperors, and planted by them wherever they loved to dwell, the vale of Kashmir is, outwardly at least, the earthly paradise of the East.

The traveller generally leaves Baramulla in the evening, and his barge is paddled and towed up by sunset to a spot where boats tie up for the night. From this point, at early dawn, a start is made to cross the Woollar Lake. This great stretch of water has an evil name among the boatmen, for it is subject to swift and terrible storms, against which the keel-

4: Durand G-3 (1858-62) 1900 AVI Kashmir AVI

less boats, with their heavy top lamper of mat roofs, cannot possibly make head. It is an unpleasant experience to be caught in a storm on the lake. All that is feasible in this case is to drift with the wind, paddling as rapidly as possible towards the nearest reed bed, and to tie up there till the storm is past; but many a boat caught in the open lake has been swamped, and the boatmen are full of tales of shipwreck. By starting before sunrise it is possible, however, to cross by mid-day to the other side of the lake, where the river flows into it, and storms as a rule do not come down till after-noon.

The scene as your boat steals out into the lake an hour or more before sunrise is one never to be forgotten; many a time did I get up to enjoy it, and each time new beauties revealed themselves. It always reminded me of a picture of the Dutch School in varying gradations of pearly greys. The night has passed, and the cold, clear light of dawn steals over every feature of the scenery. The great snow mountains stand out white and pure against the cloudless sky, in which the morning star still burns; not a touch of pink has yet warmed their silent summits. Reed beds, swathed in gently-moving mist, and long grassy promontories, on which stand motionless cattle, project into the lake in ever-varying outline as the boat glides on, all showing grey in the yet sunless light. The weird call of the water-pheasant sounds on all sides, as the black and white birds, disturbed by the sound of the paddles, wheel over the marshes; and for miles around you stretches the great expanse of water, cool and grey, swept here and there with washes of pale blue, or dark-blue greys where the lake shallows.

491 all the districts and important towns, except those in the frontier, with one another. Two bridges, one over
• [93] the Chenab at Akhnoor and the other over the Tawi at Jammu, have been built at a cost of about Rs. 8 lakhs. The bridge at Akhnoor is believed to have the largest unsupported span (450 ft.) in India. The bridges over the Jhelum between Muzaffarabad and Domel and those over the Kishanganga between Muzaffarabad and Garhi Habibullah, which had been washed away during the flood of 1929 were replaced at a considerable cost. Following this flood, an elaborate scheme estimated to cost about Rs. 20 lakhs was sanctioned for the prevention of floods in future. The bunds of the river Jhelum have been raised at several places, and it is gratifying to note that there has been no major flood in Kashmir during the last 12 years. The moderately heavy flood of September 1941 passed on with no damage to the city. The Ujh River in Jammu Province is, as an experimental measure, being spanned by a reinforced concrete submersible bridge, the foundations of which are so designed as to safeguard against scour in heavy floods. If the experiment succeeds, similar bridges will be constructed on the large sandy streams.

655 Telegraph, telephone and wireless services have also been developed in recent years, and all important places have been linked up. There are two wireless Radio Stations, one at Jammu Cantonment and the other at Naushera. Proposals for establishment of aeronautical services between British India and the State are under
3/4 consideration. For irrigation purposes, the P. W. D.
657 maintains 10 canals, five in Jammu Province and five in Kashmir Province. Of the latter, one was completed about 13 years ago, while two have been completed recently.

Water supply in the cities of Srinagar and Jammu has been considerably improved and old pipes have been replaced at several places by new ones. In the remote parts of Jammu Province where there is scarcity of water, efforts have been made to supply drinking water by means of tanks, wells and pipes. Where spring water and other natural sources of supply are available, satisfactory arrangements for drinking water have been made. As has been shown elsewhere in this note, great efforts are being made by the Rural Development Depart-

6-Delhi G-3 09502911 AVI Kashmir AVI

Jammu Province—Prevalence of severe famine in Samvat 1977 followed by diseases of various kinds increased the death rate and it was not possible for the population of the Kandi Illaqas to recover from the evil effects till Samvat year 1979 when the season was a favourable one resulting in good crops. The abolition of *forced labour* or *begar* also proved a great boon for the cultivators.

Frontier Districts—Prices were high and prevalence of famine conditions in 1977 and 1979 rendered the people destitute in Gilgit although in Ladakh the health of the people was better and the birth rate higher than the death rate. The burden of *begar* enforced for the sake of Supply and Transport Department is a sore vexation to the people and an impediment to agricultural operations.

Four and a half year's period—1980-1981-1982-1983 and first half of 1984 (1936-1937-1938-1939 and part of 1940)—*Seasons*.—In the year 1980 the rainfall in the Jammu Province was sufficient and well distributed there being no complaint even in Kandi tracts, while Nature caused belated sowings in 1981 but the position was removed in 1982 which gave sufficient and well distributed precipitation all over the province excepting portions of Rmoo and Kathua districts where excessive and untimely rain affected the *Kharif* crops. In 1983 and first 6 months of 1984 the rainfall was irregular, the Mirpur and Kathua districts suffering from insufficiency of rain while abnormal rains in Rmoo wrought much damage to life and property.

In the Kashmir Province the excessive rainfall in 1980 gave bumper harvests excepting the Anantnag tehsil, in 1981 the rainfall was comparatively much less but the deficiency was made up by sufficient snowfalls maintaining a colder and continuous flow in the irrigation channels and circlets. In 1982 and 1983 and first 6 months of 1984 the precipitation was again sufficient and well distributed.

The Frontier Districts experienced scarcity of rains in 1980 especially in tehsil Kargil of the Ladakh district where the cultivated area decreased by 340 acres. In 1981 the fall was again not good but there was an increase of 344 acres in Gilgit and 58 acres in Ladakh in the area irrigated by *Kahls*. In 1982 there was again shortage of both rainfall and snowfall but fortunately the crops which here do not depend so much on rain as on artificial irrigation did not suffer there being no decrease in the cultivated area. In 1983 and the first 6 months of 1984 the snowfall was heavier in the Gilgit district and the cultivated area increased by 600 acres.

Cultivated area.—The following table shows the variation in cultivated area during the 4½ years under review :—

Year.		Total area cultivated.	Variation.
1979	...	2,050,054	.....
1980	...	2,049,793	—261
1981	...	2,039,306	—10,587
1982	...	2,037,220	—1,086
1983	...	2,045,267	+8,047

It will be apparent that the figures of area under cultivation had suffered a continuous fall since 1979 and it was only in the last year i. e., 1983 that an upward tendency began to demonstrate itself by an increase of 8,047 acres. The area cropped also decreased during these years from 2,089,113 in 1980 to 1,945,509 in 1981 ; and to 1,936,819 in 1982.

The General conditions of the people : *Jammu Province*.—The favourable seasons and good harvests of 1980 materially improved the condition

241 of people who for the past years were subjected to the ravages of famine and scarcity conditions. There was enough grain and to spare for exportation. The opening of Banihal Cart Road which is the one all-State route connecting the two provinces of Jammu and Kashmir was the greatest work of the decade. The health was generally good save in the Jammu district where Plague caused much mortality. In 1981 the condition was practically the same but there was no epidemic while in 1982 the general economic condition was slightly better owing to the general fall in the prices of cloth, sugar, tea and salt which are the main commodities for which the zamindar is dependent on the market. The higher prices of food stuffs also brought gain to the agriculturist. There was not much improvement in 1983 excepting the slight rise in prices of food grains.

164 435 241

Kashmir Province.—In Kashmir the year 1980 was responsible for good harvests, high wages, absence from epidemics, decrease in forced labour, flourishing condition of people and prohibition of import of Shali into Srinagar and permission for its export to British India by Private Agencies. In 1981 with the exception of a Cholera outbreak the province had fair harvests, nice weather and good economic conditions which but for the feeble outbreaks of Cholera and Plague in 1982 were well maintained during 1982 and 1983.

Frontier Districts.—But for a mild attack of Influenza in Gilgit, the year 1980 proved to be a healthy year being free from disease and attended with satisfactory conditions. The people no doubt are generally poor which is due not only to the labour being unskilled and unable to fetch high wages but want of any industry or a brisk trade, the whole population being engaged in agriculture which unfortunately has no further land for expansion. The remaining years 1981, 1982 and 1983 were normal.

Fasli year 1984-85.—It is necessary to explain here the fact that His Highness' Government ordered the abandonment of the old Bikram year and adoption in its stead of the Fasli year which commences with the seventh month of the Bikram year namely on 1st of Katik and closes with the month of Asuj. The first Fasli year 1984-85 started with the 1st of Katik 1984 (about the middle of October) and is represented in duplicate figures as shown above and consequently the conditions for the years after 1983 are represented by the Fasli years instead of Bikrami years.

805

731 122 *Character of the Seasons.*—The years 1984-85 proved very inauspicious for Kashmir Province as the unprecedented and heavy rainfall continuing incessantly for well over two days brought disastrous floods which besides flooding the valley inflicted terrible destruction on crops and cattle alike. All communications with the outside world were cut off and the Kashmir valley was for several days completely isolated. Although the crops in Muzaffarabad district did not, on account of high elevation, suffer so much from floods as through excessive rainfall yet the washing away of the Kishenganga and Domel bridges by the unprecedented floods both in the Jhelum and the Kishenganga rivers brought about a serious dislocation of the trade of the district by cutting off the transport communications between Abbottabad and Domel. During the winter when the snows block the Murree road all traffic between Srinagar and the Punjab is diverted to this road which is free from snow throughout the year but loss of the above two bridges rendered the use of this route by wheeled traffic impossible. The bridges have, however, been reconstructed now in 1932 i.e. after 4 years of their destruction and consequently this period was not favourable for the flow of the trade of this district. The tehsils of Muzaffarabad district continued under the Settlement operations. The province was free from epidemic diseases but for the Small-Pox outbreak in Srinagar city in 1985 resulting in 1,032 deaths.

The annual Amarnath pilgrimage started in good weather from Srinagar but was overtaken by heavy incessant rains accompanied by snows in high alt-

4 [Errata: read "first" for "three"; cp. errata sheet, p. 329, category 116 — Analyst]

tudes. Although many pilgrims were detained by the authorities still many Sadhus and other enthusiastic pilgrims proceeded despite warnings and met with untold miseries and privations. Some lives were lost due to extreme cold and starvation. 731 132

In the Jammu Province, the vagaries of heavens displayed themselves at their worst during this year when the rains which hailed the hopes of the tiller at the time of the sowing season descended on earth in unprecedented fury in the month of Bhadon 1985 causing every river, stream, rivulet and nallah to rise to undreamt of heights bringing wholesale destruction to all life and property that came before the fatal current. The loss was immense. Crops were washed away, cattle drowned, bridges and buildings destroyed and some human life swallowed up by the furious floods.

The *Rabbi* crops had a severe blast in the bargain. The general condition of the people was on the whole average, public health being comparatively better on account of absence of any epidemic excepting the usual malarial fever which is regarded an every day affair and not viewed as a serious thing. The prices of food staples continued stationery and import of grains into Mirpur district was kept free of customs duty. 164

Fasli year 1985-86.—For the Kashmir Province the year 1985-86, however, started with propitious signs and the rainfall being sufficient and well distributed in the earlier part of the year resulted in good crops all round and bade fair to make up for the misfortunes of the previous year, but Heavens intervened and all hopes were blighted by heavy rains in Bhadon bringing in their train floods of the same magnitude as of the last year followed by immense loss to crops, cattle, and houses. Scarcity of fodder caused much suffering to the livestock. Muzaffarabad district had well distributed rains with fairly good crops. Relief measures necessitated by two consecutive floods of 1985 and 1986 were continued by the Government by sanction of liberal grants for Taccavi (Rs. 167,613). restoration of the means of communications and relief works. The Government also obtained on loan the services of a flood expert whose scheme involving an expenditure of 24 lacs has been sanctioned by the Government. 731 132

The prices of *Kharif* crops continued high while those of the *Rabi* suffered some reduction. The prices of food stuffs are generally dependent in this province on the price of Shali which is the staple food of the Kashmiries. Since the same price of Shali for the city requirement which is the only market of grain is authoritatively fixed by the Granaries Department; the rates of food stuffs in general remained normal in the face of the embargo laid on the export of food stuffs. The province had no epidemic during the year. [262] 435 164

In the Jammu Province prices were lower and import of grain into Mirpur continued free of customs duty. Timely and sufficient rains yielded good crops although the floods repeated their visit on a smaller scale in Bhadon 1986. The visitation of locusts in Kathua, Udhampur and Mirpur districts was a great nuisance as it destroyed 378 acres of crop in Mirpur tehsil although no appreciable damage was done in other tehsils. Special measures adopted by the Government aided by the willing co-operation of the zamindars went a great way in minimising the damage. The public health was comparatively better as there was no epidemic outbreak.

Government measures continued to check the growth of venereal diseases in the hilly tehsils of Jammu. The Government besides specially holding the Zaildars, Lambardars and Chowkidars responsible for keeping a strict watch over cases of abduction of women also deputed religious preachers to enlighten the public opinion against such immoral practices. The prices of grains remained gradually higher. With the inauguration of Agriculturists Relief Regulation the lot of the zamindars underwent a considerable improvement.

Fasli year 1986-87.—In Kashmir valley the rainfall was excessive compared with the preceding year resulting in water logging of considerable areas in the [Details of category 116, p. 329 for corrections—Analyst] 132

132 Sailabs Circle, which told heavily on *Rabbi* and *Kharif* crops. The Muzaffarabad district had well distributed rainfall and good crops. Hailstorms did some damage in certain places. The year was immune from epidemics except- [164] ing an outbreak of Cholera claiming 133 victims. There was a disastrous fire at Muzaffarabad and with the exception of the Treasury all State office buildings the Tehsil, Wazarat and the Court were burnt down.

435 Prices of *Rabbi* crops remained generally higher. The Shali situation was under full control. The general condition of the people was good. The fresh land revenue assessment of the Uri tehsil was announced during the year and was received well by the zamindars.

731 With the exception of Mirpur and Bhadarwah tehsils the Jammu Province had timely and sufficient rains and good harvests. The visitation of locusts constituted a great nuisance throughout the province including the Jammu city where as if to give a demonstration of their strength they one day invaded even the Government offices and in a minute the walls, the doors electric posts and trees were literally blackened by their swarming numbers and their flying legions outside actually clouded the sun from view. The Government spent considerable amounts in the destruction of the pests by actually offering price per maund of the eggs destroyed by the zamindars. The Revenue officers had a busy time and the visits of high officers and the interest taken by the Minister went a great way in freeing the country from the locusts.

241 Inscrutable are the purposes of heaven as instead of anticipated scarcity and starvation fields yielded bumper crops and the over-flowing of grain markets lowered the prices so much that they touched the bottom and the agriculturists began to find it difficult to adjust themselves to the changed conditions.

164 General condition of the people was on the whole average the year being immune from diseases. The import of grain free of duty continued as also the measures against venereal diseases and abduction of women.

132 **Fasli year 1987-88 (upto end of 1987).**—Although the Fasli year is styled 1987-88 our account ends with the close of Bikram year 1987 when the final 435 Census was taken.

Jammu district had well distributed rain attended with fair harvests; Mirpur had scarcity at *Rabbi* and excess at *Kharif* thus adversely affecting crops; Riasi and Udhampur districts had less rainfall than the previous year while Kamah had sufficient and timely rains. On the whole the rains were less favourable than of the past year.

The prices of grains showed a downward tendency due to the world slump; and fall in prices in the contiguous districts prevented the prices from rising here. Import of grain in Mirpur and Kathua continued free of customs duty. The general health of the people was satisfactory as there was no epidemic.

In the Kashmir Province the rains were scarce although better than the last year. There were no accidental calamities and no appreciable difference in prices. The general condition of the people continued good till end of 1987 as the political agitation started in the month of Har 1988 which does not fall within our decennium.

The condition of the zamindars is one of steady progress. The abnormal fall in prices in British India did not affect the Kashmir zamindars who obtained fixed prices from the Food Control Department which has proved a great boon both to the urban and rural population.

312 **18. Retrospect of Irrigation.**—Having discussed the character of the seasons, the condition of crops and the general economic condition of the people [Errata: read "menace" for "nuisance". Cf. errata sheet, p. 229, category 116 -- Analyst]